

AMENDMENTS

The following listing of claims replaces all prior listings of claims in this application.

1. - 5. (Canceled)

6. (Previously Presented): A method of placing an incoming call to a telecommunications device from a calling party on hold prior to being answered by a called party, the method comprising:

receiving one or more parameters of a hold function via a web interface, wherein the parameters are selected from the group consisting of at least a schedule including at least one time period during which the incoming call is placed on hold, and a list including at least one potential calling party from whom incoming calls are placed on hold;

automatically answering the call if the call corresponds to the one or more parameters of the hold function;

playing a message to the calling party; and

connecting the called party to the calling party when the called party answers the call.

7. (Original): The method of claim 6, further comprising determining whether the called party has enabled a hold function.

8. (Original): The method of claim 6, further comprising determining whether the called party has pressed a button on the telecommunications device to enable a hold function.

9. (Original): The method of claim 6, further comprising alerting the called party of the incoming call.

10. (Original): The method of claim 6, further comprising connecting the calling party to a voicemail system when the called party does not answer the call within a predetermined time period.

11. (Original): The method of claim 6, wherein playing a message to the calling party includes playing a message that is resident on a services node of a telecommunications network.

12. (Original): The method of claim 6, wherein playing a message to the calling party includes playing a pre-recorded message stored in a memory device resident on the telecommunications device.

13. (Original): The method of claim 6, further comprising connecting the call to a voicemail system when the called party presses a button on the telecommunications device.

14. (Previously Presented): A telecommunications system, comprising:
a home location register for storing a profile of a user of a telecommunications device, wherein the profile includes an indication of whether the user is a subscriber to an incoming call hold service implemented by the telecommunications system;

a services node for:

determining whether an incoming call placed to the telecommunications device by a calling party should be placed on hold prior to the call being answered by the user of the telecommunications device according to the incoming call hold service;

placing the incoming call on hold prior to the call being answered;

playing a message to the calling party; and

connecting the telecommunications device to the calling party if the user of the telecommunications device answers the incoming call; and

a mobile switching center for facilitating communication between the telecommunications device, the services node, and the home location register.

15. (Original): The system of claim 14, wherein the services node includes an enunciator.

16. (Original): The system of claim 15, wherein the enunciator is for playing a message to a calling party when a call is placed on hold.

17. (Previously Presented): An apparatus, comprising:
means for receiving one or more parameters of a hold function via a web interface, wherein said parameters are selected from the group consisting of at least a schedule including at least one time period during which the incoming call is placed on hold, and a list including at least one potential calling party from whom incoming calls are placed on hold;

means for automatically answering a call placed by a calling party to a called party, if the call corresponds to the one or more parameters;

means for playing a message to the calling party; and

means for connecting the called party to the calling party when the called party answers the call.

18. (Original): The apparatus of claim 17, further comprising means for determining whether the called party has enabled a hold function.

19. (Original): The apparatus of claim 17, further comprising means for determining whether the called party has pressed a button on the telecommunications device to enable a hold function.

20. (Original): The apparatus of claim 17, further comprising means for alerting the called party of the incoming call.